

CLAIMS

1. A method for routing a service request in a telecommunication system towards a destination user, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) storing a collection of identifiers related to a first identifier assigned to said user;
 - b) receiving a service request that comprises said first identifier;
 - c) obtaining a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers;
 - 10 d) selecting a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers; and
 - e) routing said service request according to said selected second identifier;
- 15 the method **characterized** in that:
 - at least one identifier among said plurality of identifiers stored in step a) has a format that comprises a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein the user-name portion contains said first identifier; and
 - 20 in step d) said second identifier is selected having a format comprising a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said first identifier.
- 25 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step c) further comprises the steps of:
 - c1) sending a query to a database that contains said collection of identifiers related to said first

identifier, said query comprising the content of the first identifier;

5 c2) receiving a response to said query that comprises a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers.

3. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein said first identifier is a E.164 number and said second identifier is a Uniform Resource Locator for Session Initiation Protocol.

10 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said second identifier contains number portability information.

5. An apparatus for routing a service request in a telecommunication system, the apparatus comprising:

15 communication means arranged for receiving a service request towards a destination user, said service request comprising a first identifier assigned to said destination user;

20 processing means arranged for obtaining a plurality of identifiers related to said first identifier and for selecting a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers; and

routing means arranged to route said service request according to said selected second identifier;

the apparatus **characterized** in that:

25 said processing means are arranged to select a second identifier among said plurality of identifiers having a format that comprises a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said first identifier.

6. A system for routing a service request in a telecommunication system, the system comprising:

a data base, in charge of storing a collection of identifiers related to a first identifier associated to a user; and

a serving node of said telecommunication system in charge of receiving a service request towards a destination user and further routing said service request;

10 said data base being arranged to receive a query comprising the content of said first identifier, and to answer said query with a plurality of identifiers among said collection of identifiers;

15 said serving node being arranged for querying said data base upon reception of a service request that comprises said first identifier, and further routing said service request according to an identifier selected among said plurality of identifiers;

the system **characterized** in that:

20 said serving node is further arranged for routing service request according to an identifier selected among said plurality of identifiers that has a format comprising a user-name portion and a domain-name portion, wherein said user-name portion contains said 25 first identifier.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said first identifier is a E.164 number and said second identifier is a Uniform Resource Locator for Session Initiation Protocol.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said second identifier contains number portability information.